

## Message Text

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ORIGIN EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-07 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00

PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 USIA-15 TRSE-00 SAJ-01

DODE-00 NEA-10 SS-20 NSC-07 SCS-03 SCA-01 OPR-02 EB-11

FAA-00 DOTE-00 SY-04 OC-06 CCO-00 SSO-00 /145 R

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P 252347Z APR 74

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO ALL NATO CAPITALS PRIORITY

INFO AMEMBASSY CONAKRY PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES

AMCONSUL LUANDA

AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

UNCLAS STATE 085231

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PO

SUBJECT: COUP IN PORTUGAL-PRESS GUIDANCE

FOLLOWING ARE PERTINENT Q'S AND A'S NOON BRIEFING APRIL 25  
RE PORTUGUESE COUP. ADDRESSEES SHOULD NOT RESPOND TO  
ADDITIONAL PRESS INQUIRES ABOUT THE PORTUGUESE SITUATION  
PENDING FURTHER GUIDANCE FROM THE DEPARTMENT.

QUOTE: Q: HAVE YOU ANYTHING FROM YOUR PEOPLE IN LISBON  
WHICH MIGHT SHED SOME LIGHT ON THAT SITUATION?

A: WELL, I SAW THE BULLETINS BEFORE I CAME OUT HERE ABOUT  
THE LATEST DEVELOPMENTS, BUT I CAN'T CONFIRM THAT. OUR  
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EMBASSY HAS, OF COURSE, BEEN REPORTING TO US, AND WE'VE

ALSO BEEN ON THE TELEGRAPH, AND WE'VE BEEN IN TOUCH BY TELEPHONE. AND THEIR GENERAL ASSESSMENT WAS THAT THEY HAD AND UNSTABLE SITUATION THERE...BUT HAVE NO REPORTS WHICH WOULD SUGGEST DANGER TO AMERICAN LIVES OR PROPERTY, AND THAT, SINCE THE AIRPORTS ARE CLOSED, THAT OBVIOUSLY TRAVEL IS DIFFICULT.

SO, IN ANY EVENT, THE EMBASSY IS ADVISING AMERICAN TOURISTS TO STAY OFF THE STREETS UNTIL THE SITUATION CLARIFIES ITSELF.

Q: ARE WE IN CONTACT WITH THE GOVERNMENT THERE, ANY GOVERNMENT?

A: I DON'T KNOW. YOU KNOW, WE'RE IN THE ANCIENT POSITION OF TRAILING THE WIRE SERVICE REPORTS. YOU ARE SO MUCH BETTER THAN WE ARE AT FINDING OUT WHAT'S GOING ON AT THOSE POSTS. I CAN'T REALLY TAKE YOU AHEAD OF THE WIRE SERVICE REPORTS OF THE SITUATION. (LATER INFORMED THAT EMBASSY OFFICIALS HAD NOT BEEN IN CONTACT).

Q: DO YOU HAVE A SPECIAL ACTION GROUP OF SOME KIND SET UP?

A: NOT A SPECIAL ACTION GROUP. WE HAVE A WORKING GROUP, LET US SAY, OF PEOPLE WITH RESPONSIBILITIES FOR THAT AREA.

Q: AT WHAT LEVEL IS THAT?

A: I THINK IT IS JUST WORKING LEVEL, DESK OFFICER LEVEL.

Q: IS THE STAFF RESTRICTED TO THE EMBASSY, OFFICIAL AMERICANS?

A: I THINK YOU STAY OFF THE STREET, YES, AND YOU GO DOWN TO A SKELETON STAFF. BUT I DON'T KNOW WHAT'S HAPPENING AS A PHYSICAL MATTER. (LATER AMENDED TO SAY THERE ARE NO SUCH RESTRICTION ON EMBASSY PERSONNEL).

Q: DID YOU GET ANY REPORTS DIRECTLY FROM THE PORTUGUESE UNCLASSIFIED

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AFRICAN TERRITORIES? AND, IF SO, WHAT ARE THEY?

A: NOT THAT I KNOW OF.

Q: WOULD YOU NORMALLY RECEIVE DIRECT REPORTS FROM LUANDA, LOURENCO MARQUES, AND SO ON, OR DO THEY FILE THROUGH LISBON

A: I DON'T KNOW, I WOULD HAVE TO FIND OUT. (LATER INFORM-

ED THAT THEY DO SEND DIRECT REPORTS TO THE DEPARTMENT).

Q: HAS THIS AFFECTED OUR MILITARY INSTALLATIONS IN THE AZORES?

A: AS I SAY, THERE HAS BEEN NO EFFECT ON ANY AMERICAN NATIONALS OR AMERICAN PROPERTY THAT WE KNOW OF.

Q: ARE THERE ANY INSTRUCTIONS TO THE U.S. FORCES OR INSTALLATIONS IN THE AZORES?

A: I DON'T KNOW. I GATHER THIS IS ALL TAKING PLACE ON THE MAINLAND THOUGH. UNQUOTE

FOR YOUR INFORMATION FOLLOWING WAS SITUATION AT 5:00 P.M. APRIL 25:

1. THE "MOVEMENT OF THE ARMED FORCES" ISSUED A COMMUNIQUE AT 6:00 P.M. LISBON TIME REPORTING THAT ENTRY HAD BEEN FORCED INTO THE HEADQUARTERS OF THE REPUBLICAN NATIONAL GUARD, WHERE PRIME MINISTER CAETANO AND OTHER MEMBERS OF HIS GOVERNMENT HAD TAKEN REFUGE. AT 7:00 P.M. GENERAL SPINOLA WAS SEEN ENTERING THE BUILDING. AT 8:00 P.M. THE "MOVEMENT" ANNOUNCED THAT CAETANO HAD "SURRENDERED UNCONDITIONALLY" TO GENERAL SPINOLA.

2. THE COMMUNIQUE REPORTED THAT CAETANO, FOREIGN MINISTER PATRICIO, AND THE INTERIOR MINISTER WERE IN THE CUSTODY OF THE "MOVEMENT", BUT THAT PRESIDENT THOMAZ AND CERTAIN OTHER MINISTERS WERE HOLDING OUT IN UNIDENTIFIED BARRACKS, WHICH WERE SAID TO BE SURROUNDED BY INSURGENT FORCES. KISSINGER

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